

## TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

- DO** use water-saving fixtures such as low-flow toilets and faucet/shower head aerators, and practice water conservation. Limiting the amount of water introduced into the system prolongs its life.
- DO** use front load washers and space out the time between washings. Wash one or two loads daily rather than saving for a wash day.
- DO** repair leaking toilets or faucets to minimize the amount of water entering the septic system.
- DO** have the septic tank, distribution box and drainfield system evaluated regularly; pump and clean tanks and distribution boxes every 3 to 5 years. Keep a record of the drainfield design layout and the cleaning schedule.
- DO** pump grease traps for garbage disposals every 1 to 2 years.
- DO** add additional tanks if you install a garbage disposal or hot tub.
- DO** consult us or a private consultant before installing structures, home additions, swimming pools, decks, patios, parking or other soil disturbing activities within 25 feet of the drainfield or reserve drainfield.
- DO** consider preventative design practices. Installing multiple tanks in series is a good practice that will insure longer drainfield life. This practice is very cost effective when the expense and inconvenience of repairs is considered.
- DON'T** use excessive amounts of water in short periods of time.
- DON'T** put oil, grease, coffee grounds, paint, or other chemicals down the drain. They may contaminate groundwater or clog pipes and drainfield soil, damaging your system.
- DON'T** dispose of sanitary napkins, disposable diapers, plastics or synthetic rubber products through the plumbing.
- DON'T** use excessive amounts of drain cleaner, plumber's helper, yeast, bacteria, enzymes, etc. These materials are not good for the septic tank systems and are normally a waste of money.
- DON'T** place bark, sawdust or plastic mulch over drainfield systems.
- DON'T** place lawn irrigation systems on or adjoining drainfields.
- DON'T** plant maple, weeping willow, sycamore, cottonwood, locust or bamboo in or near a drainfield.
- DON'T** plant vegetables or fruit in the drainfield area.

**DON'T** park, drive heavy equipment across, place structures on, cut and fill, or otherwise compact the soil within 25' of the drainfield or the reserve drainfield.

**DON'T** destroy old drainfields after a repair. You can use them again after 5 to 8 years.

**DON'T** discharge wastewater from water treatment equipment or swimming pools into a septic system. Sodium from those processes cause soils to lose structure that is essential to good percolation, and can result in failure of the system.

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